

CLAIMS

1. A method of executing a remote server-based application offline on a local computer, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing on the local computer:
 - (i) an application,
 - (ii) an application server which executes the application, and
 - (iii) an application server manager;
 - (b) using the application server manager to manage the application server so as to start and stop the application server, thereby starting and stopping the application so that the locally executed application is experienced in the same manner as if the application was executed via a remote server.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the local computer further provides:
 - (iv) application content for use by the application.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the application is a simulation engine and the application content is simulation content.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the application server manager is a browser shell.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the browser shell includes:
 - (A) a browser, and
 - (B) software for managing the application server.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the application server manager is a browser application and the logic for the application server manager is embedded in a plug-in application.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the application is a simulation engine.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

(c) disabling any multi-user capability of the application server.

9. A local computer which executes a remote server-based application offline, the local computer comprising:

(a) an application,

(b) an application server which executes the application, and

(c) an application server manager, the application server manager managing the application server so as to start and stop the application server, thereby starting and stopping the application so that the locally executed application is experienced in the same manner as if the application was executed via a remote server.

10. The local computer of claim 9 further comprising:

(d) application content for use by the application.

11. The local computer of claim 10 wherein the application is a simulation engine and the application content is simulation content.

12. The local computer of claim 9 wherein the application server manager is a browser shell.

13. The local computer of claim 12 wherein the browser shell includes:

(i) a browser, and

(ii) software for managing the application server.

14. The local computer of claim 9 wherein the application server manager is a browser application and the logic for the application server manager is embedded in a plug-in application.

15. The local computer of claim 9 wherein the application is a simulation engine.

16. The local computer of claim 9 wherein any multi-user capability of the application server is disabled.

17. An article of manufacture for executing a remote server-based application offline on a local computer which includes (i) an application, (ii) an application server which executes the application, and (iii) an application server manager, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions to allow the application server manager to manage the application server so as to start and stop the application server, thereby starting and stopping the application so that the locally executed application is experienced in the same manner as if the application was executed via a remote server.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the application is a simulation engine and the local computer further provides simulation content for the use by the simulation engine.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the application server manager is a browser shell and the computer-executable instructions implement a browser and manage the application server.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the application server manager is a browser application and the computer-executable instructions are embedded in a plug-in application.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the computer-executable instructions perform a method further comprising disabling any multi-user capability of the application server.